



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Beger, et al. ) Examiner: A. Ramana  
)  
Serial No.: 10/763,961 ) Art Unit: 3733  
)  
Filed: January 23, 2004 )  
)

For: **LOCKING MECHANISM FOR A BONE SCREW**

MAIL STOP: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: March 29, 2006.  
Signature: Carol Prentice  
Carol Prentice

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

This Response is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 16, 2005, for which a petition and fee for a one-month extension of time are being submitted simultaneously herewith.

**Summary**

Claims 5, 6, and 9-29 are pending.

Claims 5, 6, 9-16 and 18-19 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 27 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 17, 20-25 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eckhof (US 5,902,303).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckhof in view of Bray (US 6,235,034).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the following comments.